

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 /067 W
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R 111130Z AUG 76

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2932

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1666

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, PINT, GE, GW, WB

SUBJECT: GDR MEDIA CAMPAIGN AGAINST FRG

REFS: BERLIN 6433 AND PREVIOUS; BONN 13325 AND PREVIOUS

1. SENAT CHANCELLERY CHIEF HERZ INFORMD ALLIED LIAISON OFFICERS ON AUGUST 10 THAT HE AND SENATOR STOBBE HAD MET WITH FRG PERMREP GAUS PREVIOUS DAY. GAUS REPORTED ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH GDR DEPFONMIN NIER, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN EAST BERLIN MORNING OF AUGUST 9. ACCORDING TO HERZ, NIER REPEATED ASSERTIONS FROM AUGUST 9 NEUES DEUTSCHLAND. (ACCORDING TO PRESS, BUT NOT CONFIRMED BY HERZ, GAUS REJECTED ND'S " INADEQUATE AND UNDIFFERENTIATED REMARKS.")

2. HERZ NOTED THAT GDR MEDIA HINTED AT REDUCTION OF VISITS BY WEST GERMANS TO GDR IF FRG DOES NOT ABATE ITS CRITICISM OF GDR'S ACTIONS ALONG ITS BORDERS. HE SAID THAT HE, GAUS AND STOBBE SHARE VIEW THAT NUMBER OF HARDLINERS IN GDR ARE PUSHING FOR REDUCTION OF VISITS FOR THREE REASONS:
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A. ECONOMIC SITUATION IN GDR HAS GROWN SLIGHTLY

WORSE IN RECENT MONTHS AS FAR AS CONSUMER GOODS CONCERNED
GIVING VISITORS FROM FRG OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE INVIDIOUS
COMPARISONS:

B. THE OVER FOUR MILLION VISITS PER YEAR ARE HAVING
DAMAGING EFFECT ON GDR POLICY OF ABGRENZUNG AND CAUSING
PARTY FUNCTIONARIES AND OTHER NORMALLY FAVORED GDR CITIZENS
TO ASK WHY THEY CANNOT TRAVEL AS FREELY AS AVERAGE FRG
CITIZENS, AND

C. YOUNG INTELLECTUALS AN TECHNOCRATS, PARTICULARLY
THOSE IN 20 TO 30 AGE GROUP, HAVE BEEN POWERFULLY AFFECTED
BY INDEPENDENT ATTITUDE OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN COMMUNISTS,
AS MANIFESTED AT RECENT EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE
IN EAST BERLIN.

3. HERZ ADDED THAT IN HIW VIEW, BACKGROUND TO SHOOTING OF
BUBBERS AND CORGHI WAS WILLINGNESS OF FRG MEDIA TO EXCUSE
ACTION OF FORMER GDR BORDER GUARD WEINHOLD IN KILLING TWO
EAST GERMAN GUARDS AS BEING JUSTIFIED BY NEED TO ESCAPE TO
FREEDOM. HERZ SUGGESTED THAT THIS HAD MADE GDR GUARDS
VERY NERVOUS AND ACCOUNTS FOR THEIR READINESS TO FIRE.

4. HERZ ALSO EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW(WHICH HE SAID HE
KNEW WAS NOT SHARED BY MANY OTHER SOCIAL DEMOCRATS) THAT
IT WAS MISTAKE TO RAISE RECENT BORDER SHOOTINGS AT UN,
PARTICULARLY IF THIS RESULTED IN MATTER BEING DEBATED IN
GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HERZ RECALLED THAT SIMILAR SHOOTINGS
IN PAST INVOLVED GDR CITIZENS WHO WERE SEEKING TO FLEE
FROM EAST GERMANY. RECENT SHOOTINGS, HOWEVER, INVOLVED
PERSONS WHO HAD APPROACHED BORDER FROM FRG. HERZ FEARED
THAT IN UN DEBATE, GDR COULD ASSERT THAT IS BORDER
DEFENSES REALLY WERE DESIGNED TO KEEP OUT INTRUDERS FROM
THE WEST, RATHER THANT TO KEEP IN EAST GERMANS, AND CITE
THE SHOOTINGS AS MACABRE EVIDENCE OF THIS.
GEORGE

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